

The Bloody Court;

OR,

The Fatall Tribunal:

BEING

A brief History, and true Narrative, of the strange Designs, wicked Plots, and Bloody Conspiracies, carry'd on by the most sordid, vile, and Unruly Tyrants, in these late Years of Oppression, Tyranny, Martyrdome, and Persecutions:

DISCOVERING,

I. The personall Asps, King-killing Basilisks, weeping Hypocrites, and detestable Caterpillars, who in their Damnable Treasons have far surpassed the Ponderous Conspiracy, secretly contriving, but openly acting the Murder of our late Gracious King Charles, the rine of all the Royal Issue, the overthrow of all our Laws, the blowing up of all Parliaments, the subverting of the whole State of Government; and the setting up of a confused Babel, watered with the blood of the KING and His People.

II. An Exact Description of these hard-hearted Bellhazzars, infamous Impostors, Luciferian Beasts, wicked Schismaticks, cruel Hypocrites, desperate Usurpers, Damnable Blood-suckers, both of King and Nobles, who with Iron Hands, and Zephraim Hearts, would also have pull'd our present Lord and Sovereign out of the Arms and Embraces of His Loyal and Lige Subjects.

III. The Bloody Tragedy of all Tragedies, against King, Lords, and Commons; the several Scenes, presenting their most horrid Villanies; and the most barbarous and Tyrannical Massacre that was ever heard of since the World began, confided amongst the Confederates of the Independent Sword-men, against the chief Royalists and Presbyterians, both Nobles, Gentry, and Citizens; with the manner how it was prevented; and the exposing of the chief Confederates, and insubordinate Officers, to their Needles, Hammers, Poles, Slings, Carts, and Flails; and all true Subjects to enjoy their Rights.

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The Bloody Count;

The Fatal T. 1800.

At a Court of Sessions, held at the Guildhall, London, on the 14th day of January, 1800, before the Hon. Mr. Baron Alderson, and Mr. Justice Bayley, sitting in the Court of Sessions, the following case was tried, viz.

That the said Court of Sessions, on the 14th day of January, 1800, did receive and hear the evidence of the following witnesses, to wit:—



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The Bloody Court;

OR,

The Faial Tribunal.

The Crown of England was the ancientest Christian Crown in the world, and yet which had those two famous Pillars, Religion and Law, the purest and best in the world to underprop it, which make it so Reverend: But our late usurping Tyrant, and his King-killing Basilisks, holding a Confederacy with the Popish Faction, endeavoured a supplanting of the Magistracy and Judiciary, the Laws of the Land, and the Religion of the Church of England, had not the Honble. Royalist, and Government Presbyterian proved a strong Defence and Fortress against that Blood-sucking and Jesuitical Faction, who lay so occultly at the Helm of Government, and pretended (so cunningly) to call for the Protestant Religion: yet under the Wizard of Hypocrisis and Rebellion, they pretend a Reformation, but through a Sea of innocent Blood, as the Poet plainly describes in the following Historical discourse. With this their setting up a High Court of Justice, and a pretended Council of State, to be two distinct High Courts: The one, for the ordering the great Affairs of the Kingdom; the other to judge and determine matters Criminal. Here old England became visibly in its Government a new Spain: And it's worthy of observation to note, That Cornet Joyce, having with a party of soldiers, by Order from Cromwell, seized on the Kings person at Newport in the Isle of Wight, by breaking open the door in the night when the King was in Bed, and taking him thence, and bringing him over the water to Hurst Castle, Colonel Harrison was by Cromwell sent with a strong party of horse to guard the King, from thence to Windsor. And immediately thereon their bloody Court was erected; and the Head of Our gracious Sovereign proclaimed: which terrible Echo, resounded with so much horror and detestation, in the ears of all Moral hearts, that they abhorred the very thoughts of so monstrous and barbarous an Act. And not less horrible,

all Remoras being removed (which might hinder the proceeding of the Popish Faction in the putting in Execution of several Articles that ever was committed upon the face of the Earth, since the murdering of our blessed Lord and Saviour) to work their got, during the time in their clutches again, he being the only Protestant King in the World; this good King had neither Wife nor Children admitted to come near him, nor Friends, nor Chaplains, nor Servant of his own, wherein he could take the least comfort, either in discourse, or in beholding their countenances: He had no body to speak his mind unto, no body to sympathize with him, or so much as to bestow a sight upon him, in his solitary and disconsolate condition, but like another David, when his Wife and Children were gone, and he had no House to put his head in; When did those about him speak it openly, That they would put him to Death, and that not in a passion, but soberly, as if it were a pious meritorious work, to kill the only pious Protestant King in the World.

The good King through his great sufferings and unheard of afflictions both of body and mind, wherewith God was pleased to exercise him, became a pattern of patience, and will be so to all posterity; For neither all those reproaches which he heard with his Ears, and read with his Eyes, against his Crown, Dignity, Person, Name, and Posterity; nor withstanding the violence offered to him in the midst of the Night, in breaking into his Chamber, and taking him out of his Bed, carrying him partly by Land and partly by Sea to Hurst Castle, from thence to Windsor, from Windsor to St. James; in all which he was not heard so much as to speak evil of his Adversaries, or to use a bitter word, or to mean himself impatiently; but as a Lamb leading to the slaughter, so much was he in those merciless Butchers hand. At St. James he was kept until the Scaffold were erected in Westminster-hall, where it was reported that not onely the Officers cast foul reproaches of Treachery and Murder into his face, dayly and hourly, but oft times the Common-souldiers by blowing of Tobacco (which he could not insure) by beating of Drums at unreasonable hours close by him, did extremely abuse him; besides these most unchristian words to his very face, yet was he patient under all, being abused and rebuffed, he reviled not again. At last Colonel Tomlinson was the Kings Goaler, whose high commendations above all other men in the Army, was this; That he dealt civilly with the King.

On January the 20th. 1648. The pretended High Court of Justice sate, a certain man called Bradshaw, a Counsellor at Law, who being

a man of a fluent Tongue, and bold, and it seems alwayes a bitter man against the King, was found out, and by promises of great preferment and high matters, was easily perswaded to be the man to do the part of a Judge, or rather of a God, and take upon him to Judge and Conscience the Protestant King: This fellow they made a Scarlet Gown for him, that he might look like some baby above his Fellows; they gave him also a strange name, they Dy'd him in Red, and dypp'd him by the name of my Lord President! yet he had his name before he had his Red coat, for it seems they were in such haste to dispatch this pious King, who stood in the way to hinder their designs, that the two Knells was come to the last day, ere the Taylor, as I take it, had done that garment, which made him the Scarlet coloured Beast (he was full of Blasphemy before) this Blasphemous Beast was made the Judge, and one Cook, a fellow that had formerly fled out of the Kingdome, whether his Knavery, or Noberty, or both spoke him, I cannot tell, but one or both I am sure: This fellow (as I am informed by a Gentleman of worth) was forced beyond Sea to beg for his food; and being an English-man, and having Latine enough to beg his living by, he resorted to the Colleges of English Jesuites, where like Perkus's Parot, his Belly taught his Tongue his Fluencie. I mention this onely, what interest the Jesuites had in this fellow by their engagements: This fellow, when he asked for Bread, they gave him Scorpions doubtless, which made the Popish Faction chuse him above all others, to be a Solicitor General to mannage a Charge of Treason against a Protestant King in his own Dominions: We consent, a true Protestant dares not be so base a Traytor, nor any, but an Apostate English-man, be so base a scandal to his Nation, but they will sell fellow well met at this Court; here might a man have beheld the justice of that Load Mariana, swelling up each Villain in the Court to spit venom in the loathsome Face of his Royal Majesty.

My intention in this short Discourse is not to catch Womens Affections, but to inform mans Judgements, otherwise it were very easie. I think to make the stiffest heart to spring a flood of Tears, or split in Sivers, to read this Tragedy.

Turns Nature's order upside down, transforme how you can to make a prodigy, it cannot be so horrid, or so dismal a spectacle, as here I could not present the Reader.

Come you see a company of ugly filthy Coal-birds, with their persons, rise up, lay hands upon the innocent Judge: and clap their fetters on his Leggs, place him at their Barr, call him the Spalest

doz, and pass the Sentence of Death upon him? Could you see this Judge with patience submit to the ugly and unjust Sentence of these Bloody Rogues, and meekly suffer himself to be led to the place of Execution, and there have his innocent Head severed from his Shoulders? But there is ten times a more horrid sight to be seen in this, then that can be: But I must pass it over, least when I get into it, I know not how to get out, I only take these few touches, which is well worthy of observation.

There was never so much Weakness and meanness seen together in any man that looks but a man, since the World was made that we can read or hear of, as was in this King: This was so much the more, by how much he shew'd his Enemies to be such, which were men fit to be feared and cruel: He had so much Dexterity at his first appearing at the Court before them, that he made his Judges tremble at his appearance, and so much meekness in his replies to their reproaches, that it shin'd as the frozen Babels of those rigid Doctors his Judges, to a kind of inward redundancy; ask some of their Consciences whether this is not true? they do confess it.

It should seem some of them had been enquiring of Lilly the Doctorer whether they should take away his life, to whom he replied, That if the Head of his Staff fell off, His Head would fall off also: And the very first day the King was brought before them, they had severed the Head of his Staff to fall off, which made them that were his Judges, confident of success in their Treason.

They drew a formal Charge against the King, wherein they charged him as a Tyrant, a Traitor, a Murderer, and a Publick Enemy to the Commonwealth: After the Charge was read, Bradshaw desired him that he would answer to his Charge.

The King with an amiable grave countenance beholding his Enemies, and joyning with it such meek language, so full of deep and selfd Reason, made his Enemies admire and applaud him, and his friends to weep bitterly for him. The King would not (because in Conscience he could not) acknowledge their Authority: if he had, he had betrayed the Liberties of his People: For if the King should have granted (which was the only thing they desired) the legality of these Courts, what should he have denied it? Therefore the King said (and that truly) he stood for his Peoples Liberties, and the Peace of his Countrey, not allowing to have his Subjects cut off illegally.

It was admirable to see this Heroick Prince bear up undauntedly under all these discouragements with which he was oppressed: He had

at his Right hand Cook calling for Justice against the Traytor, the Murderer, the Tyrant, and the Public Enemy of the Kingdom; on the Right hand and on the left, at least to entry Walberkers; directly before him Bradshaw kneeling and yet importunately interrogating, rebelling, and hammering of him; behind him, in Westminster-hall, there were thousands of Soldiers, who when the King turned his face, and looked down on them, they cried out aloud (being taught before hand what to say) Justice, Justice, Justice.

The King was brought four times to his publick Tryal before these Bloody-minded-men, and still denied their Authority, and proved it (as well he might) to be no legal Authority, whereupon the two next days they sate not publickly, but privately in the Painted Chamber, where they were dealing up the Sentence to Murder the most spotless and innocent King.

I should have mentioned in due place, that when the Commons had Voted the High Court of Justice to sit, they adjourned themselves until their time of sitting was out; and also how Cromwel a little before they took this Trayterous Enterprize in hand, called for a Fast, to seek God in a business of so great concernment: This Fast the House kept, and the Soldiers at White-hall. At the same time did the Presbyterian Ministers Fast and Pray to prevent the mischiefs that Cromwel was acting against the Church and State, the Magistracy, and the Ministry of England. After Cromwel had done Fasting, they presently proceeded to the Tryal of the King; He and Ireton who had promised the King to establish him, and they were the veriest knaves and Villains that ever lived (They said) if they did not perform every little that they promised him; these two errand knaves and Villains (from their own mouths I judge them so were there in my sight at the Court of Justice to take away his life.

The Citizens of London and the Presbyterian Ministers (for none else durst touch the King's life) hearing that they were sitting in the Painted Chamber, to deal out the Sentence of Death against the King, went boldly to General Fairfax and acquainted him with the sin, and the dangerous consequence of such a heinous Murder: The General was fully convinced of it, and thereupon resolved to call a General Rendezvous, and in the head of the Army to Declare against it; in the mean while he resolved to go to the High Court of Justice, and stop all their proceedings against the King.

Wherefore he sought for his Lieutenant General Cromwel, and finding him, told him, he was much troubled and unsatisfied in his mind

mind about the proceedings of the High Court of Justice against the
 King; and therefore came on purpose to deliver them to proceed no fur-
 ther until the House met and sat again: Cromwel told his General,
 That he also had the same trouble upon his spirit concerning the saving
 of the Kings life; they were made about his life; he did confess, and
 what to do he knew not: only he said, he saw God answering their
 prayers, and going before them in secret: They had sought God by Fa-
 sting, and those of a contrary opinion had sought God by Fasting; but
 God seemed to cross their prayers, and they seemed (meaning the
 Presbyterians) to him to be in the dark, and deserted. Let us there-
 fore (said he) as we have seen the Providence of God, answering
 our prayers hitherto when we have sought him: so let us before we pro-
 ceed any farther in such a weighty business, goe first to God in prayer,
 and wait; perhaps God may be seen in his Providence whilst we are
 at prayer: the General was content to use all pious means: Hereup-
 on Cromwel stops the General from prohibiting the Court of Justice,
 to proceed any further against the King until prayer was done; in the
 mean time Cromwel privately sends Ireton from White-hall to the
 Painted Chamber (to them there drawing up the Sentence) to sit
 with it, Deal it, and secretly disperse themselves: whilst Ireton goes,
 Cromwel keeps the General at prayer, and holds him there (god man-
 aged upon his knees) almost two hours, till Ireton returned again: and
 then Cromwel (who prayed all that while) drew to a conclusion;
 Cromwel pretending now in all haste to goe to the Court of Justice,
 to stop proceedings against the King, was told by Ireton in the Generals
 hearing, that they had signed the Sentence against the King, and
 were then, when they newly broke up, and gone to their several homes.
 Cromwel pretended that this was immediate Providence, and an es-
 sentiall and gracious return of prayer: and we ought not in any wise
 (said he) but to admire and be silent, and wait upon the Providence
 of God, and see what the issue will be, for certain it must be glorious
 when it comes in the Arms of prayer. With such and such Saint-like
 professions; did he cozen the honest General, and made him return full
 of his purpose, under pretence of using holy means to attain his
 own purpose.

Cromwel by this Religious cheat having put the business past recel-
 ling, pretended to those Ladies and Gentlewomen that solicited him
 about the preservation of the Kings life, That none was so desirous to
 save the King as he, and therefore gave out, that the next they should
 see of him, was only to bring him on the Scaffold to execute him. That

he might speak to those things that were for the good of the Kingdom: Whas the Officers of the Army had leave to tell their Soldiers, and they thought no otherwise, as they solemnly bowed and swore afterwards.

131: to the Army in order as it lieth: January the 27th. being Saturday, the High Court of Justice (as ~~the~~ called themselves) met, and now Bradshaw had got on his Red-coat, and in he comes, attended with 67 of his party that came with him: amongst whom were (those two Sons of Perdition) Cromwel and Ireton. The King came from Sir Robert Cotton's house Guarded with Soldiers, and the space before him; when he came into the Court and turned himself about, looks down the Hall, and every way about him; the Soldiers (who were now taught a new Lesson) cried out, Execution, Execution, in the Kings Cars; to astonish him with the horrid thoughts of sudden death.

The King perceiving by the Red Colours on Bradshaws back, and by the cry of the Soldiers, that they intended that day to pass their Sentence of Death on him, desired to be heard; and the rather, because his conduct exceeding much to the good of the Kingdom, for the peace of it and the good of the People in it; which he protested he aimed at more then his own particular good: Therefore he desired to be heard (before they passed Sentence on him) before the Lords and Commons in the Painted Chamber: there he had something to say to them which was concerned both and that which would be worth the hearing: It was, he gave them leave to be the Judges, and lay the blame on him: Whether such a delay (he said) could not be prejudicial to them and this demand he thought, being it so much concerned the well fare of the Kingdom, and the life of a King it might easily be granted him; but if they refused to grant him this reasonable request, he would protest against them as men that were not real for the Liberty of the Subject and Welfare of the Kingdom.

The Court withstood for half an hour, and then returned again with this Answer to the King. That they had been too long delayed by him already, and therefore notwithstanding all the offers of Peace to the Kingdom, and Liberty to the Subject, they were resolved to proceed to Sentence and Judgement.

The King understood it was the Kingdoms welfare and peace, more then his own life, that he looked at Christ; and a delay of a day or two further might give the Peace to the Kingdom. Whereas an hasty Judgement was being that trouble to the Kingdom, which the Christ and his people

pent it; And therefore (said the King) I do again call of that duty I owe to God and my Country, desire that I may be heard by the Lords and Commons in the Painted Chamber; to this Bradshaw the President replied, This was but that he had said before, and therefore the Court desired to hear what he would say before they did proceed to Sentence; this I say (said the King) that if you will hear me, I do not doubt to give satisfaction to you, and to my People, and therefore I do require you (as you will answer it at the Dreadful day of Judgement) that you will consider it once again.

The Lord only knows what the King had to say to them, but it was doubtless something of great importance, and that which lay with- in his Breast, which he would fain have revealed before he died; but these unreasonable and bloody-minded men, whose only design was to drink his innocent Blood, would not hear him, but after they had reproached him, called him the greatest of Tyrants, and used many blasphemous Speeches against him, caused a Bold Fellow to stand up and read a Sentence, which was to sever the Royal Head of Charles Stewart, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, from his Body: After it was read, said Bradshaw (standing up) this is the Sentence and Judgement of the whole Court, at which the Court stood up: Cromwel and Ireton rising up, the two foremost and readiest in the Court, though they knew themselves the very hinderers of the setting the peace of the Kingdom, and the chief causers of the Kings ruine, in dissuading him from Treating with the Commissioners of both Kingdoms.

The King after Sentence stood up to speak, but Bradshaw told him that after the Sentence he might not speak, neither would he hear him; but gave command to the Guards to withdraw the Prisoner: The King said that he might speak after Sentence and then he would have spoke, but the Guard opened the Door where they put the King, and Bradshaw rose to depart. As that they neglected the Kings Honor: here, upon the King turning himself to come forth, said, If I your King am not suffered to speak for my self, what Justice can my People expect to have?

These were the last words the King spoke in Westminster-hall, as the King passed from the Court through the Shoulders, the Shoulders with a loud shout cried, Execution, Execution, and with such fierce-ness, that I which stood near the King, trembled with fear, lest they would have murdered him in the Hall, but it seems it was but to fright him, and discompoise his well-composed Spirit: This was the hurry

of all about him immediately after the Sentence: Is the King condemned? What? Is he now going to his Execution? Is it to night, or the morrow morning? What they say in his Cars on purpose to amaze him, some they say, rebeld, and mocked him, and others with indignation spit upon him, yet was he not disturbed in his Soul so much as to tread one foot awry, or to shew the least discontent in his Majestick and Royal countenance.

He was carried from Sir Robert Cottons to St. James, where he had the liberty of his Captain allowed him, who spent that last Sabbath of his on Earth with much comfort and joy together, all that Holy day he spent in Holy Meditations, as Hearing, Reading, and Writing, and trimming up his Celestial Spouse (his Soul) for her Celestial Bedchamber, which he every hour looked for.

The Lords Day being done, he spent the most part of the long night in Devout Prayer, never putting off his cloaths: a worthy Lady told me, that a Soldier which guarded him, by stealth, heard the King alone at Prayer, who prayed so sweetly, so fervently, and so charitably, that he thought if ever any King had communion with God on Earth, it was he, he did confess his sin and his Families and Peoples sin with much heaviness of Spirit, and prayed heartily for Remission, and for these his Persecutors pardon, and for establishing of the true Protestant Religion: After this manner spent he the night.

The next morning being very desirous to see his Children that were in England, with much ado they were permitted to go to kiss their late prisoned and condemned Father.

At this time they distributed through the Kingdom in a Pamphlet, that the Presbyterian Ministers, such as Mr. Calamy, Mr. Case, Mr. Love, Mr. Jenkins, &c. that they were content to have the King Deposed, Condemned, and Deposed; but not Beheaded: Prince A supposes, that some malicious Inhabers, or ignorant Fools, brought in this for a saying. That the Presbyterians brought his Neck to the Block, and the Independents cut it off; but the Presbyterian Bishops said that they did not indicate themselves, and confer with High Peters's Sermons of binding Kings in chains and Nobles in Fetters of Iron, and precept against the Impugning, Trying, Condemning, and going about to Behead the King.

The Lady Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester being come to view in their condemned Royal Fathers Bedchamber, the King with pleasant countenance and voice blessed them, and in Jacobus them, speaking thus to the Lady Elizabeth:

Sweet heart, I am glad you are come; for though I have not time to say much to you, yet I have that to say to you which I have not to say, or leave in writing with another for you; for such is their cruelty to ward me, that they will not permit me to write to you, nor any of my children. The King seeing the fearful young Lady weep most bitterly, and not meet her self with grief, he sent of utter to her, saying: I pray thee don't grieve nor torment thy self for me, for though I shall be put to Death to morrow, yet the Death that I shall dye will be a Glorious Death; for I dye for the Lawes of my Kingdome and the Liberties of my People, and the maintainance of the true Protestant Religion, in which I would have you well grounded, and therefore admitt with you to read Bishop Andrews Sermons, Hookers Ecclesiastical Policies, and Bishop Lauds book against Pesser, which will ground you against Popery.

I have this day forgiven all mine Enemies, and I hope God will forgive them, and I do command you, and all the rest of your Brethren and Sisters to forgive them; and tell my dear Wife your Mother, that my thoughts have never strayed from her, but she hath alwayes been next my heart, and my love shall be the same to her to my last minute: I charge you and your Brother to be obedient to her, and be sure to love your Brothers and Sisters, to whom I would have you send my Blessing, with commendation to all my Friends: And my dear Daughter, God Almighty preserve thee from all my Enemies, whom I charge you to forgive, but never to trust them; for they have been most false to me, and false to the Parliament that intrusted them, and I fear to their own Souls; and now thou art parting with thy Father (my dear Daughter) do not goe away grieving from me, for though I dye, I shall dye a Martyr, and I doubt not, but the Lord will settle my Son in my Throne, for which I am this day thrown, and and you my children will be more happy, then you could expected to have been if I had lived: All this and much more he said to the Lady Elizabeth, instructing the young Duke his Son, to learn betimes to serve and fear the Lord, and he would provide for him: It would have drawn water out of a Rocks heart, to have seen the sad parting of this Solitary, Condemned, Imprisoned King, and his dear Children.

The poor Lady went away weeping, not onely Tears, but Blood, and Blood in great abundance, so that the Physicians concluded, that she would bleed to Death.

The King sadly parting with his beloved Children (so they parted

After

never to see each other more). he forthwith betook himself to private duties, knowing the time of his departing out of this World drew nigh, not having many hours more to live; this night also he spent in trimming up his Lamp for to meet his Bridegroom, who was near at hand, not putting off his cloaths all night; he altogether neglected his bed for the good of his precious soul.

The next morning, as if the day of Judgement had been come, they awoke him with a Trumpet, not to tell him the Resurrection was come, but to raise him up to go to his Grave: this sound was to him the self terrible, by how much the less it was unrepented, for he was quickly ready: This was on Tuesday the 30th. of January 1648.

About Ten of the Clock, with a party of 500 Soldiers before the King, and a party of 500 behind him, and about 30 Partizans off each side him, he was Guarded through St. James Park to White-hall, Dr. Juxon being allowed to go along with him as his Chaplain.

The King had prepared himself for the Sacrament, resolving to eat a plentiful Breakfast before he took his long journey to the spiritual Jerusalem.

Dr. Juxon at the Sacrament following the Protestant Liturgy of England, read the Lessons appointed for that day, the second Lesson being, Mat. 27. Providence so ordering it that Christ would not only give himself slain (to this Royal Party of his) in the Sacrament for his support in his sufferings but lay before his eyes the pattern of his own sufferings for him to follow.

The King asked, whether that were the Lesson appointed for the day, the Bishop told him it was, where the King exceedingly respected, as seeing the glorious hand of his Saviour speaking as it were from Heaven to him, and resolving that doubt which he had in him, whether he had best refuse to submit to the punishment as he did not submit to the guilt: he there perceiving how his innocent Saviour submitted to the punishment, who had no guile found in him, resolved (being a Prince) to submit willingly to the Hand of God, and to lay down his life without murmuring, as his blessed Lord and Saviour had left him a pattern: With much devotion, joy, and spiritual delights, he was observed to receive the Sacrament, after which there was a sudden message came unto him, as if on purpose to disturb him, that he must speedily pass himself for the Glass was turned and he had but that hour more to live, which message, was as an Arrow shot through the heart of the Bishop, and the word that loved the King: Whereupon the King said to the Bishop, My Lord, do not you pity me, well, after one hour is expired, I shall pity you, and all the People in my Kingdom.

As he came through the Banqueting-house, there they had placed his Coffin in his Eye, purposed to betide him, and strike him with terror: When he came on the Scaffold, and saw the Block, the Piller, and Debbses, which were made to bring him as an Ore to the Slaughter, and to force him to the Block, in case he refused to lay down his Royal Neck thereon: He lifted up his Eyes towards Heaven, and said, I am a Sinner, and willing to submit my self to the punishing Hand of GOD; but not to the Unjust Sentence of Men.

He made a Speech upon the Scaffold, out of which I shall only recite this passage, because I will not be tedious.

The Peoples Mouths, He proves himself in Government, for the maintenance of that Government, he saith, he was condemned.

Sir, saith he, it was for this this now I am come here; I would have given way to an Arbitrary way, for to have all Lawes changed according to the power of the Sword, I needed not to have come hither; and therefore I tell you, and pray God it be not laid to your charge, That I am the Martyr of the People.

After his Speech, he called for his right ear, and putting it on, pressed himself to suffer that punishment his Enemies had sought him unto. The Sun shined that morning very clear without intermission, until the King came to the fatal Block, and lay down, and then at that instant a Dark thick Cloud covered the face of the Sun, which for a time so continued, insonuch, that a Gentlewoman standing by to behold this Dreadful Tragedy, cried out, Look, look, Sir, the Sun is ashamed, and hideth his Face, as loathing to see this Horrid Murder! immediately upon her words the fatal Blow was given, such a one against Christian Religion, as all the Devils in Hell could not strike at once, so dreadful a pernicious blow as in.

This Bloody Stroke being struck upon the Royal Neck of the only Protestant King in the World, it seemed rather to fall upon the People than the King: for so soon as it fell upon his Neck, the People cryed out with so grievous and doleful a cry, as I never heard before; it raised a flood of tears, which spring out of the Eyes of all that had Ears to hear and hearts to understand the Treason, from the Noble to the Beggar: I observed that day, was a weeping day; I scarce saw a Shop of the thousands I bevels that day, wherein I saw not weeping Eyes, with Hands wiping each other to express the anguish of their Hearts.

The Presbyterian Congregations in the City of London for the most part assembled together; all, or the most part of the night before the King

King was to suffer to pray for him, if it were the will of God to pray him out of trouble, however to prepare him for his sufferings, and to carry him through them with the comforts of the Holy Ghost: Never did King go to Heaven in a greater Cloud of Prayers and Tears, then this King; and never was their greater mourning for the loss of any King then this: I think there was scarce a Protestant in the World, so when the true Relation came, but shed tears for him. I have talked with Travellers who can tell more than this, how much the King was mourned for, especially when they saw his Book, which is Translated into all Languages almost, and sent into every Countrey.

At this time there was a consultation held amongst the Grandees of the two Houses, concerning a Massacre of the chief Royalists and Prelaters, both Noble, Gentrey, and Citizens, of the chief of whom they had a List, as also some in Prison: This was (as I was by several hands informed) carried in the Affirmative, until one (more politicke then the rest) rose up, and told them, It was the ready way to have their own Throats cut; since now they had the Army at London, and the Army divided into Rebels, and others, which Rebels were falling off more and more, and therefore this Blade, like Achitophel, gave Counsel wisely, saying, That they had time enough to deal with them hereafter, without the running of so desperate a hazard.

This was the stopping of that Bloody Course, and there was good ground for it; for Lilburn, Osburn, Overton, Prince, and Walwin, perceiving themselves charged of their design, and that Cromwel called them in order to keep them quiet, not to yield to any of their demands; and perceiving that Cromwel's designs were to bring old England into the Spanish Yoke, that is, to set up a Council of State to manage the Affairs of State, and an Impartial, or High Court of Justice, to Judge in matters Criminal; they falling into what a Tyrannical road he was got, like open-hearted men did declare to the World, That the way was Tyrannical, and against the Liberty of the People, and did protest against Cromwel as a detestable Subvertor, and a subtil Hypocritical Traytor.

These Rebels (as they were called then) did lie as a cross War in the Popish Nations way, which enjoyed from wedding the Blood of the Protestants, as they intended.

Whatever they showed their intentions, for within a Month we had News from several parts of some Ministers that were got for praying for the King, and preaching for the Covenant,

Mr. Cotton, a Pious, Wise and Learned Minister of London, was
 within a year after the King was crowned, apprehended as a Papist,
 and cast into Prison, for saying that God would reward the King
 Kings Son to be his Right Heir: after they had cut off the Parties of
 King, they placard to eat off the great Protestant Parts of Europe;
 especially that they had opposed at any time heretofore the Popish
 Religion: They had their other Princes of the Land in hold, Duke Ham-
 ington, the Earl of Holland, and the Lord Capel; these three were
 true sincere Protestants and professors of the Synodical Government,
 the Lanes of the Kingdom thus having their Heads chopped off in one
 and upon one Black Hamilton in Holland they owed a grudge too, for
 ever since they broke the Poole's religion, in making up the breach between
 the two Nations in 1639, this being the argument of proceeding
 Hamant to the overthrowing of the Popish Religion.

Thou this time those of the Lower House
 Telles the Supreme Authority of the Nation, that they
 as a Free State, sent to the King in London, to
 about a Resolution and Agreement betwixt them, as it was such
 that they would not take away the Church Liberty, but rather in-
 crease them.

The members of the Commons this time, that before they
 knew in what, and how far they would require them to comply with
 them, they would give no positive answer.

At this time Overton, Prince, Walcott, Mr. Lilburn, who were of
 the Rebellious party, were called as our Counsellors at that time, since
 it had no use of them: before he called them Dukes, and now he calls
 them Devils, and Dirty headed Fellows; whereupon they openly
 declared against the present Power, as Tyrannical, Arbitrary, and
 contrary to the Liberty of the People of England; for which they were
 imprisoned in the Tower, which much enlarged the Rebellious party,
 whereby Providence so ordered it, that the people were to the world in
 their Printed books, the secret under hand plotting of a new and
 reason with the Popish Faction and Popish Party, to promote them-
 selves to the Crown.

F I N I S.

